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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PADIHAM.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1956.



J.W.J. FORSYTHE, MB., CHB., BAO.
Medical Officer of Health.

PADIHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Town Hall,
PADIHAM.

15th July, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members, of the Urban District Council of Padiham.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty first Annual Report dealing with the health of the inhabitants of Padiham during 1956.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health this will be an interim report, confined to essential or urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year, such as, overcrowding, sanitation, distribution of clean food, and outbreaks of infectious diseases etc.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population:- Estimated population in 1956 - 9,990.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
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Number of live births registered:-

Legitimate	153	68	85
Illegitimate	6	3	3
	<u>159</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>88</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population:-	Crude	15.9
	Adjusted	16.5

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
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Number of stillbirths:-

Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births. - 36.0

Number of deaths registered:- Males 87. Females 67. Total 154.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:-	Crude.	15.4
	Adjusted.	15.7

Respiratory T.B. death rate.	0.10.
Death rate from Malignant neoplasms.	3.00.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births.	Nil.

Infant Deaths:-

Deaths under 1 year of age:- Males 3. Females 4. Total 7.
Deaths under 4 years of age:- Males Nil. Females 4. Total 4.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:-	44
Pro-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births:-	25

Causes of death:-

Malignant neoplasm - Stomach.	4
" " - Lungs.	6
" " - Breast.	1
" " - Uterus.	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	16
Leukaemia.	1
Diabetes.	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	21
Coronary disease, angina.	33
Hypertension with heart disease.	6
Other heart diseases.	13
Other circulatory diseases.	4
Pneumonia.	4
Bronchitis.	12
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1
Congenital malformations.	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	17
Accidents.	4
Suicide.	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1
Homicide.	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The unemployment which occurred during 1952 and which was more or less confined to Cotton Operatives was less prevalent during 1956.

Most of the mills in Padiham run their own canteens and these should be encouraged and used more than they are, by the workers.

The County Council has control of two nurseries in the area where children under school age, of women engaged in industry, are looked after, and regarding these nurseries the only complaint is the supervision is not strict enough in times of epidemics.

All the schools in the district provide dinners for the scholars and this is to be highly commended.

In connection with the welfare of the old people, a voluntary association has been set up and is doing valuable work, such as, letter writing, doing shopping when necessary, giving advise, and arranging for domestic help in cases of sickness.

So far as the health of the aged is concerned there is no doubt that the sons and daughters will have to bear their fair share of looking after them and not leave it to others.

The health of the inhabitants has been fairly good during the year and so far as recreations are concerned full advantage was taken of all the facilities controlled by the Local Authority and the various Sunday Schools.

A new association has been started in Padiham to help handicapped and disabled people and very valuable work is being done in this respect.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY:-

The water supply has been good both in quantity and quality. Chemically and bacteriologically the water has been excellent.

The following are the results of bacteriological examinations carried out in 1956.

Bacteriological examinations:-

	Aerobic Micro-Org. (Colonies per C.C.)	
	3 days @ 22c.	2 days @ 37c.
Raw Water - No. 1. Results -	28	3
	B. Coli 1.	

Water going into supply, where treatment is installed. No. 4. Results - B. Coli - Nil.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Houses - Public Health Act.	320
Houses - Housing Act.	87
Fireguard Act.	5
Common Lodging Houses.	23
Infectious Disease Cases.	11
Rodent Control.	117
Revisits.	289
Factories.	23
Workshops.	50
Shops Act.	629
Smoke observations.	27
Bakehouses.	48
Fish & Chip Shops.	26
Food premises.	81
Butchers Shops.	60
Ice Cream Premises.	18
Markets.	4
Slaughterhouses.	319
Milk Sampling.	11
Ice Cream Sampling.	3
Tinned and other foods.	7
Houses disinfected.	2
Houses disinfested.	5
Domestic Refuse Collection.	431
Trade Refuse Collection.	60
Refuse Disposal (Tips).	476
Salvage.	465
Miscellaneous.	389
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DERATISATION AND DISINFESTATION.

(a) RODENT CONTROL:-

This is effectively controlled by the Rodent Operator. Sausage rusk bait and Zinc Phosphide poison, damp bread mash and arsenic oxide poison were used. Warfarin is now also used as a bait.

(b) DISINFESTATION:-

Five premises were dealt with for vermin, three for cockroaches, and two for fleas.

The refuse tip was periodically dusted with D.D.T. powder to ensure cockroach and cricket control.

FOOD.

Ministry of Health Circular 19/56.

<u>i and iii.</u>	<u>Type of food premises.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
	Bakers and Confectioners.	19	48
	Butchers and Meat purveyors.	17	60
	Cafes and snack bars.	4	81
	Chemists.	4	8
	Cooked foods.	2	4
	Fish fryers.	12	26
	Fishmongers.	3	6
	Greengrocers.	10	20
	Grocers.	62	124
	Licensed premises.	16	32
	Aerated waters (Mineral).	2	4
	Off licences.	12	24
	Poultry dealer.	1	2
	Potato crisp maker.	1	2
	Potato merchant.	1	2
	Sweets - Sugar confections.	10	18
	Wine merchants.	2	4
	Tripe dresser.	1	2

Regular visits were made to food preparing premises, and it is a pleasure to report that it has not been necessary to make any official representation.

ii. Milk and Dairies:-

The following registrations and licensing matters were dealt with during the year:-

Number of persons registered as Distributors of Milk.	45
" " premises " " Dairies.	6
" " dealers licensed to use Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested".	8
" " " " to use Special Designation "Pasteurised".	21
" " " " to use Special Designation "Sterilised".	14
Total number of approvals.	<u>94</u>

The following is the state of registered premises:-

Number of premises registered for sale or manufacture of ice-cream.	47
Number of premises registered for preparation or manufacture of Sausage or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food.	43
Total number of registrations during the year.	2

- iv. All food premises have been visited and the new regulations explained to the responsible person.
- v. Condemned food is disposed of by burial on the controlled tip.
- vi. 117 packages of various foodstuffs, weighing 1 cwt, 2 qr, 6 lb, 9 oz., were condemned and destroyed.
- vii. Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52. None - now cold mix.
- viii. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into operation on the first of January.

These regulations take the place of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (which is repealed by the Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954) and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the contruction and maintenance of premises, stalls vehicles etc., where food is handled.

Progress has been made in the provision of sinks, wash-hand basins, hot and cold water supplies and other requirements of the regulations.

MEAT REGULATIONS:-

These have been closely watched by the Public Health Inspector during the year.

FOOD POISONING:-

One case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following offensive trades are now in existence in the area.

Tripe Boiler.	1
Size Maker.	1
Fish Fryers.	12

These premises were inspected on 26 occasions.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one registered common lodging house in the district and 23 visits of inspection were made during the year.

The prospects of this lodging house being closed within the near future seem very bright and this will be very welcome news.

SMOKE OBSERVATION.

No complaints were received during the year. 27 smoke observations were made.

The "Clean Air Act, 1956", was passed by Parliament on 5th July, 1956, and will come into operation on the appointed day.

HOUSING.

(a)	Number of new houses erected during the year	-	25
(b)	Number of houses erected under the various acts:-		
1.	Housing Act. 1919.	31	
2.	Housing Act. 1923-24.	170	
3.	Housing Act. 1930-36.	228	
4.	Housing Act. 1936-46.	21	
5.	Housing Act. 1946-51.	246	
	Total	<u>696</u>	

OVERCROWDING.

No overcrowding as set down in the Housing Act, was observed during the year, although two cases of complaints by tenants were submitted to the Committee.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Preliminary surveys show that 19 dwelling houses are suitable for immediate demolition, 112 dwellings are suitable for inclusion in Clearance Areas, and 367 dwellings have sufficient life as to be repairable at reasonable cost.

Approximate number of back to back houses.	145
" " " " " earth "	2

To give some indication of the extent of the shortage of houses it is only necessary to state that there are 54 families in lodgings, 28 without children, and the rest with 1, 2, 3, or 4 children.

Over 100 aged persons are seeking one bed-roomed bungalows.

Housing schemes are in progress to try and alleviate these conditions.

Demolition and Closing Orders.

	Houses	Number of Persons displaced.
<u>Housing Act 1936.</u>		
(a) Demolished. Section 11.	2	3
(b) Closed - undertaking - still in force.	14	26

Repairs:-

	No. of Houses.
Rendered fit - informal action.	69
Public Health Act.	
Defects remedied - By owners.	4
By L.A.	5
Housing Act, 1936.	
Made fit (Sections 9,10,11 and 16) By owners.	2

No certificate of disrepair has been issued during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1956 was more or less a normal year apart from an outbreak of Chicken Pox which however was mild in character - no deaths being recorded.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year.

Measles.	2
Whooping Cough.	11
Chicken Pox	76
Acute pneumonia.	1
Food poisoning.	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

Respiratory.	7
Non-respiratory.	1

All new cases are thoroughly investigated and followed up, and all the new treatments are showing excellent results as shown by the decreased death-rate from Tuberculosis.

Immediate contacts are X-rayed, given the Montouse Test, and examined by the Chest Physician.

It is hoped to have another visit by the Mass-Radiographic Unit in 1958 and an even better response should be obtained.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Clerk of the Council, the Public Health Inspector and the Surveyor for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. J. FORSYTHE,

Medical Officer of Health.

